

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 23, 2023

Mr. Ali Zaidi

Assistant to the President &
National Climate Advisor
The White House, Office of Domestic Climate Policy
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Zaidi:

We write to request that you direct the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to extend the public comment period on EPA's supplemental proposed Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review (Methane Rules) and BLM's proposed rulemaking to reduce the waste of natural gas from venting, flaring, and leaks during oil and gas production activities on Federal and Indian leases by 60-days, respectively.

Recent proposals from the EPA and BLM are complex and potentially overlapping. Regulated entities are working to understand the implications of how the Inflation Reduction Act will interplay with EPA's Methane Rules and BLM's proposed rulemaking. Additionally, the proposed BLM rule overlaps with EPA's Methane Rule, as both will affect the regulation of flares and leaks in oil and natural gas production. The similarity in these results will require stakeholders and agency officials – with sizable tasks – to submit both comments in a short period of time. Many of which are responsible for providing significant input for both.

Moving too quickly to finalize these policies before the public has necessary time to respond to the proposals could be detrimental to the final rule. The current deadlines could result in rushed implementation of these rules, with minimal input, that will likely lead to unintended consequences or duplicative action.

For that reason, we urge you to extend the comment periods for the rules outlined below to allow all stakeholders involved in these major rulemaking actions with the time necessary to provide meaningful comments, which would serve only to improve the finalization of these objectives. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to grant a 60-day extension for the public comment period of the following proposals:

US Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency

Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2021–0317; Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review; comments due February 13, 2023

US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

87 Fed. Reg. 73588 (Nov. 30, 2022), RIN 1004-AE79; Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation; comments due January 30, 2023

We believe the additional time will add value to the agencies as they move forward with the promulgation of their respective rules. We look forward to your prompt response as these deadlines are fast approaching.

Sincerely,



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary, US Department of the Interior
The Honorable Michael S. Regan, Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency
The Honorable Shalanda D. Young, Director, Office of Management & Budget
The Honorable Tracy Stone Manning, Director, Bureau of Land and Minerals Management, US Department of the Interior